

MISCELLANY

Items for the News column must be furnished by the twentieth of the preceding month. Under this department are grouped: News; Medical Economics; Correspondence; Department of Public Health; California Board of Medical Examiners; and Twenty-five Years Ago. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

NEWS

Visiting Appointment to Union Medical College, Peiping.—Dr. Emile Holman, professor of surgery in the Stanford University School of Medicine, San Francisco, has been granted leave of absence during the autumn quarter to serve as visiting professor of surgery in Peiping Union Medical College, Peiping, China. During August, Doctor Holman will visit Japan and give lectures and clinics at the Severance Union Medical College, Seoul, Korea.

The Western Journal of Surgery and Surgical Specialties.—The editorial board takes pleasure in announcing the early publication of *The Western Journal of Surgery* to replace *The Medical Sentinel* in the interest of the regional problems in the fields of surgery in all its branches—gynecology, obstetrics, and all matters pertaining thereto. This move is in response to an enthusiastic demand, and is the result of years of careful observation of regional conditions. The journal will be devoted to the interests of the individual physician in the promulgation of scientific learning and mutual confidence.

Subscribers to *The Medical Sentinel* will receive the *Western Journal of Surgery* beginning with its first issue.

Service Bureau.—Mr. Allen J. McCarthy, formerly business manager and chief of administrative service in several U. S. Army, U. S. Public Health Service, and U. S. Veterans' Bureau hospitals in various parts of the country for the past twelve years and late superintendent of the Alameda Sanatorium, Alameda, has recently opened offices in the Wakefield Building, Oakland, under the title of "The Allen Hospital Bureau." This bureau furnishes professional, technical and administrative personnel to hospitals, clinics, physicians, and dentists, together with a consulting service in hospital administration.

MUCH IN LITTLE *

Poor results make poor collections.

Losses of inexperienced operators in the stock market are more easily recouped than the losses of inexperienced operators in the abdomen.

The breaking up of adhesions in a stiff joint, under a general anesthetic, is a good guarantee of some permanent disability.

Hemorrhoids are often the price one pays for his ignorance of the art of defecation. Alternate pressure and relaxation allows proper anal dilatation.

* Members of the California, Nevada, and Utah Medical Associations are invited to contribute to this column of aphorisms, which will appear from time to time in California and Western Medicine, as sufficient copy accumulates.

The aphorisms in the September and October issues were contributed by John Hunt Shephard, M. D., San José.

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

By W. M. DICKIE, *Director*

Epidemic Poliomyelitis Less Prevalent.—The epidemic of acute anterior poliomyelitis which has prevailed during the present summer is now subsiding rapidly. Since the middle of July, when the disease reached peak in its prevalence, the number of cases reported has decreased by 47 per cent. There were but fifty-two cases reported during the week ending August 16. Since the beginning of the year a total of 880 cases of the disease have occurred in California. Of these, 785 were reported from the eight counties of southern California. The remaining ninety-five cases were reported from twenty-two other counties of the state. No cases of poliomyelitis have been reported this year from twenty-eight counties of California. Any further rise in the prevalence of the disease this year is unlooked for, and it now appears that the number of reported cases will continue to diminish each week.

Information relative to the number of deaths that may have occurred and the number of cases in which there are resultant paralyses is not available at the present time. It would appear, however, that relatively few deaths have occurred and relatively few cases of paralysis have been left in the wake of the epidemic.

Population and Death Rates.—The remarkable increase in the population of California as revealed in figures released by the United States Bureau of the Census is an important factor in lowering the death rates for the various causes of death. Standard mortality rates are based upon the numbers of deaths that occur in every 100,000 of the population. Estimates of population at mid-year are based upon the rate of increase during the ten years that intervene between the 1920 and 1930 census. Since the state grew from 3,426,000 in 1920 to 5,672,000 in 1930, the estimates of population during the intervening years are made much higher. Instead of having a typhoid fever death rate of 2.3 per 100,000 population, as under the old estimate of population, at mid-year, the typhoid fever death rate for 1929 was 1.7 per 100,000 population, as based upon the computed increase. With tuberculosis, instead of a mortality rate of 139 per 100,000 population, the new computations give the state a rate of 106.3 per 100,000 population for this disease. Similar figures give California added prestige in the accomplishments that have been made in the control of the various communicable diseases. The new mortality rates as based on the new estimates of population, now available, place California in the van as one of the most healthful states in the Union.

Condemnation of Off-Grade Walnut Meats.—During the season 1929-1930, a total of 1,594,263 pounds of off-grade walnut meats were condemned by the Bureau of Food and Drugs. These products were sent to oil mills, where they were converted into edible oil products. Inspectors of the Bureau of Food